Title: Made references on passing away of Shri Nikunja Behari Chowdhury, Member of the First Lok Sabha on 13th June, 1998; Shri Dwaipayan Sen, Member of Sixth Sabha on 9th July, 1998; Shri Lakhan Lal Gupta, Member of Fourth Lok Sabha on 31st July, 1998; Shri Banmali Babu, Member of Fifth Lok Sabha on 5th August, 1998; Shri J. Rameshwar Rao, Member of Second to Sixth Lok Sabha on 15th September, 1998; Shri T. Abdul Wahid, Member of Third Lok Sabha on 5th October, 1998. Also conveyed condolences to the bereaved families of 180 persons including trekkers and pilgrims died in a landslide in the hilly terrain of Pithoragarh on 18 August, 1998 and 200 persons died and 250 injured in a train accident on 26 November, 1998.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as we meet today after an interval of almost four months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the demise of seven of our former colleagues, namely, Sarvashri Nikunja Behari Chowdhury, Dwaipayan Sen, Narsingh Yadav, Lakhan Lal Gupta, Banmali Babu, J. Rameshwar Rao and T. Abdul Wahid.

Shri Nikunja Behari Chowdhury was a Member of the First Lok Sabha, representing the erstwhile Ghatal Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal during 1952-57.

A teacher by profession, Shri Chowdhury served as a member of the District School Board, Midnapur from 1949 to 1953.

An active social and political worker, Shri Chowdhury established a number of schools and libraries. As an agriculturist, he also organised cooperative and Kisan movements in his State.

Shri Nikunja Behari Chowdhury passed away on the 13th June, 1998 at Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal at the age of 79.

Shri Dwaipayan Sen was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha, representing Katwa Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal during 1967-70.

An advocate by profession, Shri Dwaipayan Sen was actively associated in various capacities with the Bar Council and legal forums of West Bengal.

A well known social worker and a philanthropist, Shri Sen worked hard for the upliftment of the weaker sections of our rural areas. He also worked for the development of industries.

Shri Dwaipayan Sen passed away at Calcutta on the 17th June, 1998 at the age of 78.

Shri Narsingh Yadav was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Chandauli Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1977-79.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Yadav served as Minister of State in the Union Council of Ministers and held various important portfolios during 1979-80.

An agriculturist and teacher by profession, Shri Yadav was actively associated with various Teachers' Unions in different capacities.

A well-known social and political worker, Shri Narsingh Yadav worked hard for the upliftment of the downtrodden.

Shri Narsingh Yadav passed away on 9th July, 1998 near Lucknow at the age of 67.

Shri Lakhan Lal Gupta was a Member of Fourth Lok Sabha representing Raipur Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh during 1967-70.

Earlier, he was a Member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1952-67.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Gupta was actively associated with various agricultural organisations in different capacities.

A well-known social and political worker, Shri Gupta worked hard for establishing ideal villages.

Shri Lakhan Lal Gupta passed away on 31st July, 1998 at Raipur District, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 87.

Shri Banmali Babu was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Sambalpur Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa during 1971-77.

Earlier, Shri Babu was a Member of Orissa Legislative Assembly during 1961-70. He served the State Government of Orissa as Minister of Law, Public Health, Engineering Industries and Urban Development Department till 1967.

An active social and political worker, Shri Babu was instrumental in establishing various schools and colleges in Orissa. He was member of various social organisations.

An advocate by profession, Shri Banmali Babu worked relentlessly for rural development.

A man of letters, Shri Banmali Babu wrote several articles on Town Planning and Urban Development in India.

Shri Banmali Babu passed away on 5th August, 1998 at Sambalpur, Orissa at the age of 80.

Shri J. Rameshwar Rao was a Member of Second to Sixth Lok Sabhas representing Mahbubnagar Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh during 1957-79.

A well-known social and political worker, Shri Rao joined Indian Foreign Service in 1949. He was First Secretary, Indian Commission, Nairobi during 1950-52 and Commissioner for the Government of India in Gold Coast and Nigeria during 1953-56.

An agriculturist and businessman by profession, Shri Rao worked for the development of agriculture and irrigation and organised agricultural labour unions.

A widely travelled person, Shri Rao was member of Indian Delegation to the United Nations in 1958, United Nations' Conciliation Commission for the Congo during 1960-61 and Afro-Asian Conference in Algiers during 1964-65.

An active Parliamentarian, Shri Rao was also member of the Consultative Committee for Foreign Affairs and Consultative Committee on Planning.

Shri J. Rameshwar Rao passed away on 15th September, 1998 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 75.

Shri T. Abdul Wahid was a Member of Third Lok Sabha representing Vellore Parliamentary Constituency of erstwhile Madras State during 1962-67.

A businessman by profession, Shri Wahid was associated with various social and welfare organisations in different capacities. He was also member of various Consultative as well as Advisory Committees of Government of India. A well-known social and political worker, Shri Wahid strove for the welfare of minorities and took keen interest in promotion of their education.

Shri T. Abdul Wahid passed away on 5th October, 1998 at Chennai at the age of 88.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

As the Hon. Members are aware in a landslide in the hilly terrain of Pithoragarh about 180 persons including trekkers and pilgrims who were on their way to Kailash-Mansarovar shrine were reported to have died on 18 August, 1998.

In another tragic mishap, about 200 persons are reported to have died and 250 injured in a train accident on 26 November, 1998 when speeding Jammu-Sealdah Express rammed into the derailed bogies of the Mumbai-Amritsar Frontier Mail at Kauri village near Khanna in Punjab.

We deeply mourn these tragedies and the House may place on record its deep sense of grief in this regard.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.11 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.